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TITLE: Substantial Risk Reported Among HIV+MSM in Primary Relationships

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OBJECTIVE: To describe differences in sexual risk-taking behavior with primary versus non-primary partners among a sample of HIV+men who have sex with men (MSM) who are in primary relationships.

METHOD: A cross-sectional sample of HIV+MSM (N=463) was recruited from two U. S. urban centers (New York and San Francisco). Men participated in a semi-structured interview and completed a self-administered survey exploring a broad spectrum of variables. Men in primary relationships (N=192), were selected for this analysis and stratified by seroconcordant/serodiscordant partnerships (HIV positive primary partner (+/+) N=90 and HIV negative or unknown status primary partner (+/-?) N=89).

RESULTS: Men in serodiscordant primary relationships reported significantly higher rates of unprotected anal sex with non-primary HIV-? partners than men in HIV+ seroconcordant relationships ($X^2=4.983$, $df=1$).

	Primary Relationship		<u>p</u>
	Discordant (+/-?)	Concordant (+/+)	
Unprotected anal with HIV-? non-primary partner	28%	14%	.02
Unprotected anal with HIV + non-primary partner	18%	16%	ns

In addition, substantial risk with primary partners was reported. Almost half (44%) of the men in serodiscordant primary relationships (+/-?) reported having unprotected anal intercourse with their primary partner. Sixty percent of the men in HIV+ seroconcordant relationships reported unprotected anal intercourse with their primary partner.

CONCLUSION: Men in serodiscordant relationships report higher rates of unprotected anal sex with HIV-? non-primary partners than men in seroconcordant relationships. Both groups report high rates of unprotected anal sex with their primary partners. These data suggest that men in serodiscordant relationships have specific prevention needs that must be addressed. Prevention efforts must tailor interventions to address issues specific to partner type and partner HIV status.

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